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FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1761, DECEMBER 30, 2 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1761, BONN 97; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 115, PARIS 139.

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FRENCH AMB'S CONVERSATION WITH GROMYKO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH MINE. BRIT AMB REPORTED THAT GROMYKO "HELD STRONGLY IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DENY GERMAN PEOPLE RIGHT TO BE HEARD." GROMYKO ALSO TOLD BRIT THAT DISTINCTION COULD BE MADE BETWEEN GERMANS AND OTHER CLAIMANTS FOR PARTICIPATION.

I ASSUME THAT WE DO NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO PURSUE FURTHER QUESTION OF AGENDA. IN CONTEXT IN WHICH IT WAS MADE I INTERPRET GROMYKO'S REMARK THAT EACH PARTICIPANT WOULD BE FREE TO REFUSE TO DISCUSS A QUESTION AS INTENDED TO REASSURE US THAT WE WOULD BE FREE TO REFUSE DISCUSS A GERMAN PEACE TREATY.

FROM BONN TEL TO DEPT 1215 AND OTHER MESSAGES THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE SOME DISPOSITION TO PRESS SOVS TO GIVE UNDERTAKING NOT RPT NOT TO RAISE QUESTION OF GERMAN PARTICIPATION AT SUMMIT MEETING. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT UNLESS SUCH UNDERTAKING IS OBTAINED KHRUSHCHEV WOULD REFUSE AT SUMMIT MEETING TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION IN ABSENCE OF GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE. ON THE OTHER HAND HE CLEARLY WISHES TO DISCUSS GERMAN PEACE TREATY AND BERLIN AND I SHOULD THINK WE WOULD HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ON REUNIFICATION IN DISCUSSION BOTH THESE QUESTIONS. IN MY VIEW KHRUSHCHEV

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-2- 1761, DECEMBER 30, 2 PM FROM MOSCOW

IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM EAST GERMANS TO PRESS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO AGREE IN ADVANCE NOT TO RAISE THE QUESTION. HE DOES HOWEVER WISH TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING AT SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND I DO NOT THINK HE WILL PRESS QUESTION OF GERMAN PARTICIPATION TO POINT OF BOGGING DOWN CONFERENCE. KEY POINT WOULD SEEM TO BE WHETHER WE THINK WE COULD STAND PRESSURE FROM PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH I IMAGINE WOULD BE PARTIUCULARLY STRONG IN GREAT BRITAIN, IF AT THIS STAGE WE SHOULD JEOPARDIZE HOLDING OF SUMMIT MEETING BY INSISTING UPON A COMMITMENT FROM KHRUSHCHEV NOT TO RAISE ISSUE OF GERMAN PARTICIPATION. RISK AND DISADVANTAGE OF PRESSING FURTHER ON THIS ISSUE APPEAR TO ME TO OUTWEIGH ADVANTAGE THAT MIGHT BE GAINED.

THOMPSON

EST/23

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